

HELL'S KITCHEN

STORY OF GERM WARFARE

BY
L. NATARAJAN

PERSPECTIVE PUBLICATIONS

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**AMERICAN SHADOW OVER INDIA
SEVENTH FLEET IN INDIAN OCEAN**

HELL'S KITCHEN *by L. Natarajan*

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PREFACE

THERE is no more ignominious example of human ingenuity defeating its own ends than the use of science for developing weapons of war. "If I had known, I would have taken to watch-making" said Einstein when he saw the monstrous use made by scientists of his revolutionary equation. Alfred Nobel sought atonement by founding a prize for those who would seek peace.

But the perfection of more and more deadly weapons and their extensive use by the most powerful nations of the world have been such a common feature of the last few decades that it is now considered mawkish sentimentality to express horror at a mere aerial bombardment of defenceless civilian populations.

Progress in chemical warfare has been rapid, though little publicized. Perhaps, there is enough conscience left to realise that even in this age of nuclear destruction, the deliberate, systematic pursuit of this most callous way of killing will not meet with the approval of any but the most cynically hardened war-mongers.

The pioneers of science risked their own lives to isolate the germs which kill men. Today, there are fabulously well-provided laboratories where scientists rub their hands with glee when they can develop bacteria which would kill more effectively than any which existed.

Reading of such attempts even in horror books, when one knew it was the feverish imagination of a harmless amateur, was enough to curdle the blood. The imagination of the scientists in the laboratories is still feverish, but no longer harmless.

The generals who dream of killing whole armies, and disabling entire populations, without at the same time destroying the riches of the countries invaded, have been served well by these scientists.

It is now possible to make an unsuspecting people

“dance a merry jig”, or kill them painlessly. A farmer may one day wake up to find that the corn that smiled yesterday in his field has withered. A child may sip a glass of water and never ask for water again.

All this is now within the realm of possibility. Vast sums are being spent, and the best scientific talent exploited to perfect these instruments of death. In this mad pursuit, it is forgotten that the deadly man-made bacteria floating in the air will know no national boundaries, will not recognise friend from foe, and will not re-enter the test-tube at the command of its creator.

An international convention to boycott the use of gases has not been ratified by one of the super-powers today, the United States of America, on the plea that in war the enemy may use it first. Out of such a fear started the nuclear race. It is not sufficiently realised that a race in gas warfare could be equally, if not more disastrous.

It is right that our country has come out against the use of gas in America's war in South Vietnam. The entire nation has been one with our Government when it declared in no unequivocal terms : “We consider that the use of gas is against the conscience of humanity” recalling that “ever since World War I, civilised opinion throughout the world has condemned gas, chemical and bacteriological warfare”.

This booklet lucidly narrates the entire story of this horror machinery that harnesses science for the annihilation of humanity. We trust the reader will carry its message far and wide so that the conscience of humanity may assert itself to shut down this Devil's Kitchen.

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PUBLISHERS

Introduction

FOR centuries now the people inhabiting our planet have been fighting infectious diseases. It was a struggle against heavy odds. Thousands of outstanding men of medicine and scientists, the master-minds of humanity in their day, perished in this battle with an invisible foe that caused murderous diseases.

But these sacrifices were not in vain. Many epidemics have been completely conquered, others have had to retreat under the onslaught of man's piercing and persevering mind. There has been a drastic decrease in the number of deaths everywhere from lethal bacilli, virus, microbes. Future generations will remember the many men of science who fought selflessly for human life and health. Among them was Hippocrates of Ancient Greece known as the father of medicine. He exerted great influence on the development of medicine down the centuries. Then there is Abu Ali Ibn-e-Sina (or Avicenna, as he came to be known in Europe). He won renown as physician, philosopher and naturalist. Also in this list are Louis Pasteur, the French scientist who pioneered the development of microbiology, and Robert Koch, the German scientist revered as one of the fathers of the science of microbiology.

Science still moves forward on the basis of the discoveries of these great men.

The time is not far off when all infectious diseases that now cause man such suffering will be conquered. Our descendants will undoubtedly be grateful to the scientists of today and yesterday for having helped them to conquer so insidious an enemy as epidemics.

But what will future generations have to say when they learn that in our day, in the second half of the Twentieth

Century, there not only lived scientists who courageously fought pathogenic bacteria, but also men of science who, on the contrary, cultivated carriers of infectious diseases to be used to kill their fellow men ? Their activities which are directed towards the mass extermination of humanity will no doubt arouse feelings of disgust and horror among future generations. That is as it should be for these men deserve nothing better even from their contemporaries.

Who are these man-haters? Where and how do they go about their nefarious activities ?

This account provides some of the answers. To guard against these enemies of humanity, let this record be read to the very last word.

II

Bacteriological Centres in the United States

FORT DETRICK lies on the road leading from Washington to the mountains. In surroundings of picturesque woods and hills it looks like a sleepy, quiet sort of place. But this is a misleading impression. Fort Detrick is far from peaceful. This is one of America's main centre engaged in preparing for bacteriological and chemical warfare.

It is difficult to get into its heavily guarded laboratories to see what is going on. One needs a special pass to get in. However, snatches of information provided by American scientists and correspondents will help us lift the curtain. Here are some of the statements about the death nest in Fort Detrick, which greatly menaces the people of all lands.

Professor Theodore Rosebury, who had been doing research for many years in the field of military bacteriology and who took part in setting up the bacteriological centre at Fort Detrick lists the following facts in his book, *Peace or Pestilence*:

The United States began operations in the sphere of military bacteriology in 1941. In 1942 a special team was formed under the prominent bacteriologist, George Merck. Soon this group was put under the Army's Chemical Corps. The laboratories in Fort Detrick and at the Chemical Corps Centre at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, together with the range in Dugway, Utah, became the main base of preparations for chemical and bacteriological warfare. By the end of World War II there were up to 4,000 persons working in the sphere of military bacteriology in the United States.

After the war, activities of the bacteriological centre at Fort Detrick were not stopped. On the contrary, their scope increased significantly.

By 1949 Fort Detrick and the other centres cultivated in artificial environments the pathogens of such dangerous diseases as the plague, smallpox, brucellosis, rabbit fever, typhus and others. Laboratories in the United States are working intensively to find speedy methods of spreading lethal bacilli among the population. Great attention is also being paid to cultivating various pathogens of cholera, plague and other diseases affecting domestic animals.

Walter Schneir, who is connected with operations at the bacteriological centre, indicates that infected insects are kept constantly available at the Fort Detrick installations. The inventory includes mosquitoes infected with yellow fever and malaria, fleas infected with plague, ticks with tularemia, relapsing fever and Colorado fever, house-flies with cholera, anthrax and dysentery.

The installations at this hell's kitchen include laboratories for the mass cultivation of pathogenic organisms and hot houses to study pathogens and various chemical agents that destroy crops. In addition to doing research with insect disease-carriers they are also elaborating methods of spreading different bacilli, virus and toxins in the form of aerosol.

The Bulletin of Atomic Scientist carried an article by Professor Martin M. Kaplan, microbiologist and epidemiologist at Pennsylvania University about the different diseases that can be spread to achieve definite aims and which might be more or less effective in biological warfare.

Pentagon's Lexicon of Death

Professor Kaplan meticulously classifies the diseases which could give definite tactical effect or be of strategical significance. He notes that some diseases do not meet the necessary requirements. Prof. Kaplan further classifies the epidemics that could prove effective as a tactical or strategical weapon dividing them into curable and incurable. Among the epidemics effective from the point of view of American military specialists, but which can be combated successfully with the help of known means, Prof. Kaplan includes pneumonia, erysipelas, meningococcus meningitis, trypanomathosis. Among those which might be of tactical or strategical significance and against which no means of protection exist he lists hemophilic influenza, myelodiastasis, and others.

This article indicates that in the United States all known diseases have already been classified from the point of view of their military application. The military will not have to rack their brains over which disease to set loose in varying circumstances. Such terms as strategic plague and tactical flu have long become part of the Pentagon's lexicon.

Yet all these "achievements" mark a past stage. Military bacteriologists are now seeking pathogens of yet unknown diseases. They are no longer satisfied with the plague, cholera or any other natural scourge of the human race. General William Creasy, one of the main proponents of chemical and bacteriological warfare, bluntly stated that the United States was pressing energetically for new results to improve old disease agents and to uncover new ones.

The hell's kitchen in Fort Detrick has developed a pathogen of botulism, or food poisoning. At first it causes irritation and then a complete paralysis of the nervous system. Prof. Weston-Watt, the prominent British scientist, claims that the danger from the botulism toxin is greater than the menace created by a hydrogen bomb explosion. Prof. Chisholm, an expert in the field, says that 250 grams of this toxin are enough to destroy everything living on earth. General Rothschild of the Pentagon points out that one ounce of the rickettsiosis toxin which causes typhus would be enough to infect the population of 9 planets of the size of the earth. The toxin of psittacosis (a contagious disease of the parrot family) has been found. It causes a severe form of pneumonia which leads to death. In addition many other pathogens have been discovered and are cultivated in artificial environments. They cause severe diseases which constitute a horrifying menace to mankind.

In July, 1962 the UPI reported from Washington that the hell's kitchen in Fort Detrick had succeeded in developing bacteria with a new set of hereditary traits. The dispatch emphasized that if research work was fruitful a terrible new element would be added to the bacteriological war potential. Bacteria which are known only to their discoverers could destroy the populations of entire countries before a counter-means could be found.

The dispatch adds that work is proceeding on Dr. Norton Zindler's project described in American scientific literature several years ago. On the basis of experiments

at Wisconsin University, Dr. Zindler came to the conclusion that the hereditary traits of one cell (bacteria) could be transmitted to another. He reported success in carrying over nearly every trait that was revealed with precision experimentally, including resistance to medicaments, the factor of mobility and antigenic factors.

This means that the possibility is being created of developing biological agents which will possess any lethal and penetrating properties desired.

Work in the sphere of military bacteriology is proceeding simultaneously with research to create new types of poison gas. Roger Green, science correspondent of the Associated Press, boasted that.... "working in deep secrecy American scientists almost overnight have developed an arsenal of fantastic new weapons variously known as psychochemical and 'madness' gases, which could virtually paralyse an enemy without a shot being fired".

The "nerve" gases (sarin, tabun and soman) must be singled out among the lethal gases. The action of the first in this list is described by Stuart Loory, Jr., for *the New York Herald Tribune* in a dispatch dated August 29, 1960 from the Dugway range:

"Pigeons react to nerve gas attacks with the same characteristics as humans. That is, they die. Quickly. A white pigeon placed in a sandbagged machine-gun emplacement halfway up desolate Wig Mountain was dead before the dust from an exploding 155 mm howitzer shell carrying the gas had cleared....."

"Thursday (Aug. 25): the Army fired 12 of the chemically lethal howitzer shells two miles over the sagebrush-covered wastes into the mountainside. The demonstration was the first ever made publicly of this country's ability to wage tactical warfare with nerve gas. The ninety-six pound shells carried a liquid called GB, a killer developed in Nazi Germany during World War II and never used in fighting. It works by blocking the action of cholinesterase, a chemical in the central nervous system that controls messages from the brain to the muscles. A pin-point-sized drop on a man's skin is enough to incapacitate him. A drop just a little larger is enough to kill him within minutes".

A Merry Jig—Or Death

General Creasy testified before the Congress that the

US Chemical Corps is primarily interested in elaborating so-called "psychological" means which cause complete incompetency of the nervous system and mental activities leading him to rash actions.

The General told the Congress that he could make his victims dance a merry jig or kill them in half a minute. He emphasized that if the Nazis had used this "nerve" gas the Americans would never have landed in Normandy, for one drop of this gas on the skin is enough to kill a man in less than 60 seconds. General Creasy tried to sway the Congress men towards devastating biological and psychochemical warfare, using gases that the enemy cannot see, feel or sense.

It appears from facts leaked to the press that the psychochemical programme comprises but a part of the Chemical Corps activities. American Army chemists are working on other lethal gases as well. These gases which have neither colour nor odour are much more effective than any known poison gases. Intensive work is also under way to create a gas that causes blindness. General Creasy calls this the ideal type of weapon.

The hell's kitchen of the US Chemical Corps does not overlook radioactive contaminants which, in the form of gas or dust can poison everything alive over vast areas.

In October, 1956, the US Department of Defence issued a directive envisaging a broad programme of preparation for chemical and bacteriological warfare. *The Denver Post* carried very interesting figures in its issue of January 25, 1963, describing the expansion of work in the sphere of chemical weapons in the United States. The example the paper selects is the poison gas plant in the Rocky mountains not far from Denver. In 1961 the plant's production was worth 1.5 million dollars. In 1962 production mounted to 6.9 million and in 1963 it jumped to 17.5 million dollars. Production in 1964 was estimated to reach 25 million dollars.

The Rocky mountains plant was built in 1943 and by the end of hostilities, produced 87,000 tons of poison gas and 155,000 tons of incendiary agents. At a certain period after the war production was stopped, but was soon resumed with new force. At present a tremendous amount of modern poison gas is stored in special hermetical tanks on an area of 17,745 acres. The chief of the Arsenal is Colonel Charles McNary, who heads a group of 130 military and 520 civilian employees.

The Baltimore Sun reported that leaders of the Army's scientific and technical research programmes recently informed the Armed Forces Committee of the Senate of a considerable expansion in the programme for developing means of chemical and bacteriological warfare. Under President Eisenhower the Chemical Corps was allocated 103.4 million dollars. In 1961, 133.8 million dollars was appropriated to prepare biological weapons. The UPI reported that in the 1962-63 fiscal year allocations for the Chemical Corps were doubled.

Finn Larsen, then the U.S. deputy minister of defence, urged that the programme for bacteriological weapons should be expanded in the future. The march of events showed that Larsen possessed the gift of foresight.

The First Strike

In August, 1959, the Science and Astronautics Committee of the US House of Representatives published a special report urging a race in the sphere of these types of weapons. At the same time the *New York Times* reported that the Pentagon was trying to get the government to unite its hands with regard to using bacteriological and chemical weapons in case of war. "We must reject once and for all the position... that an enemy can have the first chemical or biological blow wherever and whenever he wishes... We must make it clear that we consider these weapons among normal usable means of war". General Creasy went still further in his testimony. He called for preventive war using all modern means of attack.

The United States News and World Report notes that the American leaders in charge of war preparations are convinced that these types of weapons are assuming a decisive significance.

In October, 1960, the Army announced the creation of a new weapon that fired a simultaneous salvo of 45 chemical rockets. Each rocket is packed in a container made of glass fibre which becomes a launching tube when needed. The broad dispersal of missiles makes it possible to cover a large area with chemicals quickly and effectively.

The UPI reported that on September 24, 1962, the American Army tested the Sergeant guided missile. The war-head which is intended to replace the Corporal rocket is capable of carrying a nuclear as well as a chemical or

bacteriological charge. The fact that the Sergeant missile is suitable for bacteriological warfare was confirmed in a special booklet issued by the ballistic missiles division of Fort Hill.

Another innovation in this sphere is the unpiloted plane for chemical or bacteriological warfare. This is a new variant of the Army's "SD-2". It can carry 233 pounds of bacteria over a distance of up to 115 miles. The American "Janes Aircraft" handbook emphasizes that the plane has a special trap at the bottom of the fuselage making it suitable for Chemical Corps assignments in spraying poison gas or biological disease-spreaders.

Press reports indicate that the Aerojet General company in California and Bristol Air Line are already producing these planes.

Jack Raymond, the *New York Times* military expert, noted that beginning with 1961 the US Air Command began equipping planes with special sprays for chemical and bacteriological blows at military installations and populated centres on enemy territory. Quoting a Pentagon source Raymond writes that "for the first time, both the Air Force and the Navy have been brought into a coordinated program for weapons to wage bacteriological and radiological warfare. The Army has carried out the bulk of research and development in this field".

Some time ago the Pentagon elaborated a master plan for using poison gas and bacteriological weapons. Under this plan the United States forces will use in particular the following types of chemical and bacteriological weapons:

A) Epidemic-causing microbes which infect humans, through water and air. Mortality reaches 90 percent. Purpose: mass extermination of human life while preserving material values which the United States could make use of after occupying the enemy's territory.

B) Psychochemical means—these include substances poisoning people through air, water and the soil. They act on the central nervous system breaking down normal reactions and causing mental disorder. Purpose: demoralization of the enemy, stripping him of his morale and rendering him incapable of defence.

It should be noted, however, that increasing the dose

of these substances, which is inevitable during hostilities, will cause severe poisoning ending in agonising death.

C) Chemical and biological means carried by air which destroy crops and cattle. The fall of domestic animals reaches 100 per cent. These means have a severe effect on humans by causing excruciating pain and death. Purpose : to disrupt supplies and to cause chaos and famine.

D) Liquid poisons (aerosol) acting on the nervous system. They are unnoticeable and almost incapable of detection. They leak through any shelter. One drop on the skin is enough to cause death. Purpose: complete extermination of the population over a given area.

E) Radioactive dust causing protracted illness and death. There are dozens of ways of spreading it. Purpose: contaminating territory and destroying the forces defending it.

Some time ago the *Christian Science Monitor* in Boston pointed out that the Pentagon had long been carrying out an extensive propaganda campaign to popularise ideas of chemical and bacteriological warfare among the population of the United States. The paper emphasized that this campaign was aimed at getting a substantial increase in appropriations for preparations of this kind of war. The present scope of work in the field of chemistry and bacteriology does not satisfy the Pentagon.

Publicity is Poetic

The lovers of plague fleas and poison gas gave their publicity campaign the poetical title of Blue Sky.

Walter Shneur, writing in the American magazine *Reporter* had the following to say about this campaign: ranking military leaders make speeches to specially selected groups. Officers testify in Congressional Committees closed to the press. Afterwards carefully screened material is published with great publicity fanfare. These speeches in Committees are also used to effectively demonstrate the action of various preparations on animals. Articles by retired officers who bear no responsibility for what is written appear in magazines. Authors specializing in scientific and military spheres are informed that once secret material is now accessible for use in articles. Authors are given

hints as to where they can find secret material in non-secret publications. The Army's Chemical Corps hires newspaper and agency correspondents for definite terms so that they might get acquainted with research and write favourable reports. The Chemical Corps even hires specialists from Madison Avenue where the biggest advertizing agencies in the United States are located.

The New York Herald Tribune correspondent Stuart Loory, Jr., reports that the Chemical Corps daily holds demonstrations for top military and government representatives and correspondents in its attempt to prove that chemical and biological weapons are more humane than nuclear or conventional weapons.

Colonel Joseph C. Prentice, director of the CBR (chemical, biological, radiological) weapons orientation courses, said: "I'm an enthusiast of biological and chemical warfare. I think it's great stuff. It's more humane than anything else we've got".

Brigadier Rothschild echoes him by saying: "Ironically enough, it can be argued that the only hope for relatively humane warfare in the future lies in the chemical and biological weapons."

The Choice is Yours

General William Creasy adheres to a similar point of view, yet he puts his thoughts in a more concrete form. "What would you prefer", he asks, "to lose your mind, become blind or paralyzed as a result of the use of some chemical, or burnt alive by an ordinary incendiary bomb?"

This is the choice that the cooks in the Hell's kitchen offer humanity. This is how Rothschild, Creasy and the other enthusiasts of plague fleas and poison gas process the unenlightened public. They are clearly surprised that despite all efforts by the Pentagon and the Army Chemical Corps, the naive inhabitants of our planet continue to cling to their immutable right to life, sunlight and happiness. They do not want to understand that one breath of air is enough to get rid of the severe suffering of life or, if the worse came to the worst, to dance a lively jig.

Of course, it is difficult to listen to such reasoning. But we should not be surprised. Till recently many

theoreticians of death openly proclaimed that the most humane war is the atomic war and will be so down the centuries. Now it appears that a still more "humane" war has emerged for mass extermination of human life.

The New York Herald Tribune plays up the advantages of bacteriological warfare as follows:

According to Army statistics a long range bomber which drops a 20 megaton hydrogen bomb can devastate an area of 100 square miles. The same bomber dropping 450 pounds of microbes can kill people and paralyse the economy on an area of 34,000 square miles. And this will be much cheaper, the paper adds.

This glorifying of bacteriological and chemical warfare in the United States is carried out under the motto "it's simple and cheap".

A case in point is the report made by Colonel John Hayes, commander of Ft. Detrick, to the Second Military Industrial Conference of the Society of American Military Engineers. He lauds bacteriological and chemical warfare by claiming that such a war is the most profitable and most humane, hair-raising as it may sound. What are the wonderful traits of such a war? Colonel Hayes explains that weapons possessing a maximum destructive capacity should be used against targets of no industrial value. This is where atomic and hydrogen weapons come in. But when it comes to targets that should be preserved intact chemical and bacteriological weapons are called for, weapons "which can remove the human element but leave buildings and machines intact".

Colonel Hayes believes that the priceless advantage of chemical and bacteriological weapons is that they can be used depending on circumstances. "If lethal effects are desirable they can act quickly, silently and much more mercifully.... On the other hand, if so desired, they can merely incapacitate, depending on the dosage and type of agent selected.....". In this way an important aim can be achieved—"the military productive machine can be neutralized" and, what is more, "the manpower will be available for post-war use even if only in the form of slave labor".

This is what "bacteriological humanism" really is. It removes the human element or provides slave labour for

the "lucky ones" who survive the assault of "humane" microbes.

The latter prospect is less probable, however. "Unrestrained" representatives of the human race may take two or three superfluous breaths and the poison with which the "bacteriological humanists" intend to saturate the air in war time will forever deprive people of the possibility of playing the part of slaves in an American paradise.

Western military leaders do not conceal that the main purpose of their favourite weapons is primarily "to remove the human element." Major General Stubbs, US Chemical Corps, lauds the merits of a bacteriological war by saying that chemical and bacteriological weapons used in conjunction with nuclear weapons would greatly increase the impact. He claims that biological means could be used before an offensive to weaken the enemy's defences. General Stubbs believes that poison gas could be used on the ground to penetrate into shelters not protected against gas and not fitted with filters.

General Creasy puts forth this idea forward more bluntly. He maintains that underground shelters against nuclear explosions would be insufficient to give protection from psychochemical and biochemical means delivered to targets by rocket. The gas is heavier than air and consequently the ventilation piping in an underground shelter would be asking for death.

Top American experts in the field of military bacteriology and chemistry confirm that the means of war they are developing are not fighting weapons but something in the nature of a gigantic gas van to kill the civilian population—children, women and old folk. L. Fothergill, consultant of the US Army's biological laboratory, states that this strategic weapon is suitable against the civilian population, but not against troops.

Criterion of Humanism

From the point of view of the Rothschilds and Fothergills this is, apparently, the highest criterion of humanism. But the production of poison gas and the cultivation of lethal bacteria is not always safe. At times the dangerous genie released from an accidentally uncorked flask mercilessly devours his liberator.

Here are some cases taken from the American press.

In Washington some time ago a cavalcade of police motorcycles thundered through the streets at the end of a summer day. They raced down highway 240 to meet and escort an ambulance speeding from Fort Detrick. The motorcyclists were ordered out by radio. And since all newspaper offices also tune in to police radio transmissions these orders immediately became known to the editors and reporters. Sniffing sensation in the air many reporters raced after the police motorcycles. What they soon saw was this:

The ambulance was racing down Highway 240 surrounded by a tight escort of police motorcycles. The cavalcade deafened the countryside with their sirens as they raced at top speed through the capital into the courtyard of one of the hospitals. Immediately an impenetrable shroud of secrecy was lowered. The police even denied the fact that they had been ordered to escort the ambulance. And the hospital administration, despite rules, refused to confirm reception of any patient or patients. It was only somewhat later that the shroud of secrecy was lifted and then only by chance. The local population learnt that the wife of one of the employees at the Fort Detrick establishment had been called by phone. She picked up the receiver and heard a message which made her blood turn cold:

“We regret to inform you that your husband died this morning and was cremated immediately. An accident happened in the laboratory.”

This fact was revealed to newspapermen by Lawrence Scott, leader of a group of Quakers campaigning against the hell's kitchen in Fort Detrick.

Of course, the authorities try to keep it a secret that there are numerous casualties in the United States involved in the making of poison gas and bacteriological weapons. But it is not always possible to maintain this secrecy.

Ronald May of the *Detroit News* had a dispatch based on the special investigation conducted by Congressman Kastenmeier. He indicated that in the years the hell's kitchen had been in existence in Fort Detrick more than 300 persons had fallen victim to accidents and unsuccessful experiments. Another correspondent, William Schneir, reported that in the arsenal near Denver where the nerve

gas is being made there have been more than 800 accidents in the past six years. The details are closely concealed from the public.

Accidents at only two chemical-bacteriological centres have been mentioned. News leaked to the press despite measures taken by the Pentagon to prevent such leakage. Only the closely guarded secret archives of the Pentagon know how many were really involved in the laboratories of these and other establishments.

The American champions of bacteriological warfare well realize the danger to the country entailed in producing lethal bacilli and poison gas on the territory of the United States. That is why the government of the United States is gradually transferring its laboratories to other countries which will be used as American testing grounds. Of course, these laboratories go under the most innocuous names such as forestry stations, first aid centres, scientific migration stations and so on. Of late, these laboratories outside the United States have been staffed by doctors and scientists belonging to the Peace Corps. This is a new American organization formed to implement the United States colonial policy in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Some time ago the Pentagon set up a big bacteriological laboratory in Japan. Secrecy is the watchword there. Now this laboratory has equally secret branches in many South-East Asian countries. Both the main laboratory in the Japanese isles and its branches are engaged in cultivating carriers of epidemics and in experimenting with dangerous microbes.

When this became known, public circles in Asia began asking : "Are not the sudden break-outs of the plague, cholera, small-pox and the other epidemics that frequently sweep Asia the result of the activities of the American bacteriological laboratory and its branches ? Have the American bacteriologists turned the Asians into experimental guinea pigs ?"

III

Microbiological Centres in Britain

THE British public learnt of the activities of one of these microbiological centres through a tragedy.

Dr Jeffrey Bacon of the Porton Microbiological Research Establishment (MRE) situated in quiet Wiltshire suddenly fell seriously ill. He was taken to hospital where two days later, he died. Dr Bacon's wife and children were immediately isolated. The quarantine was soon extended to include everyone who had been in contact with Dr Bacon prior to his death.

These rigid measures were not taken in vain: Dr Bacon had been contaminated with the plague, a terrible infectious disease, which took his life.

The horror that gripped the people of Porton can well be imagined. Some fled from the town. Others acted like rabbits facing a boa constrictor. The population was actually threatened by the plague.

Jeffrey Bacon fell a victim to plague bacilli. He had developed this culture in the test-tubes of the Porton Microbiological Research Establishment. Dr Bacon cultivated these plague bacilli not for himself but for others. Fate, however, decided otherwise.

It appears that the terrifying case of Dr Bacon was not the only one of its kind. Several years ago the *Sunday Dispatch* reported the death of a certain Ronald Mallison as the result of a secret experiment connected with bacteria. He took the risk on payment of a substantial fee.

This is how the British public learnt of the existence of the Porton laboratory. And it became known that this laboratory was showered with the gold of government allocations although the budget approved by parliament made no allowance for such expenditure. The British taxpayer shelled out more than 43 million pounds without

knowing it to build and equip this microbiological establishment. British journalists who managed to get into this secret centre give us some of the details.

One of them, writing in *the Daily Herald*, reported that scientists were working on the most terrible means of warfare. They have organized mass production of bacteria which will be spread by the wind to victimise humans.

The Daily Sketch correspondent reported that Porton could daily produce hundreds of cultures in doses each of which could kill millions of people.

The Daily Telegraph correspondent pointed out that the laboratory's main task was research in the sphere of bacteriological warfare.

The Daily Herald's science correspondent, Nicholas Lloyd, reported that at Porton scientists were studying the most horrifying means of warfare behind red "danger" signs and under the protection of police dogs. . . . A study is being made of ways of spreading lethal bacteria by spraying them in manpacked cinemas and trains. . . . The laboratory is situated in the country and looks as innocuous as a big modern town hall.

The News of the World reported that representatives of U.S. security agencies took part in the hearings of the Bacon case. The paper emphasized that Washington was troubled by the prospect of a leakage of the latest discoveries in the sphere of military bacteriology during the investigation. British experts were supplying the American military establishment with samples of the super infectious virus and bacteria that they had developed. These were to be mass-produced in the United States. Other sources report that the American bacteriologists had given the British samples of their biological agents for checking. At any rate it is clear that top brass in Britain is working hand-in-glove with their opposite numbers in the Pentagon.

In the summer of 1962 the British press announced to the world the details of the American-British agreement in this field. This enables Britain to bypass the Geneva Convention banning chemical and bacteriological warfare although she is a signatory to this convention. The United States, back in 1925, foresaw the possibility of the use of bacilli and gas to strike a sudden blow. That was

obviously why it did not sign the Convention. Now this enables Britain to "try" out American developments in this field.

The Daily Express reported that the British armed forces rely wholly on the United States to supply them with bacteriological weapons and the latest types of poison gas. The paper explained that on the basis of this secret agreement Britain is developing means of protection at top speed while America produces bacteriological and chemical weapons for both countries. Now a super toxic gas, which is several thousand times stronger than Germany's nerve gas, is being stocked in the United States. It was discovered by British scientists.

Baitain was the first in the world to use bacteriological weapons. At the end of the 18th century when the British were appeasing the Indian tribes in Canada, British officers gave the Indians blankets that belonged to soldiers who had died from smallpox. This caused an epidemic that destroyed many tribes and took a toll of tens of thousands of lives. Now the British have again turned to their black deeds. The apex of these activities at present is the new type of plague against which inoculations are no protection. It was revealed in the course of investigations by Dr Derlow, security adviser at the Porton MRE, and the director of the Establishment, Henerson, that during the past 11 months Dr Bacon had been given 23 inoculations against the plague, but nothing helped.

It is stated by Brock Chisholm, the prominent Canadian bacteriologist, that it is possible by laboratory methods to heighten the virulence of certain agents to such an extent that they will be able to overcome natural and artificial immunity that protects the organism from infection. In other words, man can now increase the lethal power of bacteria hundreds and thousands of times over or even create new ones with deadly traits hitherto not known.

IV

Canada's Microbiological Centre

HALFWAY between the poultry plant in Brooks (Alberta Province) and the glass works in Redcliff, to the left of the Trans-Canadian Highway there is a red-white water tower overlooking the terrain. This is the only thing that attracts the traveller's attention since there is nothing else in that endless valley stretching to the North. There is a road turning off the highway to the tower, but it is not for all. This sideroad is closed to all unauthorized personnel. The red-white tower is the only noticeable installation of the Suffield Microbiological Station which is the Canadian counterpart of the bacteriological stations in Fort Detrick and Porton. Busy working there is a team of the research division of Canada's Defence Ministry, who live a secluded life.

The Suffield Station occupies a huge territory—approximately 640,000 acres.

The staff use this area for field experiments with bacteriological weapons and poison gas and other lethal substances. This territory is ideal for the secret experiments that are carried out there. In the 22 years since the first research team arrived virtually not one outsider has succeeded in getting to see this domain of the Defence Ministry. According to the chief of the bacteriological department, Ben Lamb, even the head of the station and his assistant have never been in the "dirty" laboratories. The only ones who can enter are those who have been inoculated against the diseases whose carriers are being developed in the Suffield Laboratory.

This laboratory has a special history. In 1941 when it was difficult to find a site for research in this field back in besieged and over-populated Britain the equipment and staff were flown across the Atlantic to this desolate spot. Since then the ovens of the hell's kitchen in Suffield have not stopped burning for a moment.

The Suffield Laboratory, like the other centres preparing for bacteriological and chemical warfare, is under the constant supervision of security agencies. Despite this Steven Franklin of the *Montreal Weekend Magazine* managed to get in. He reports that the bacteriological division is part of the Central Laboratory although separated from it by air gates. It has its own ventilation system. All the windows in its premises are shut tight. The foundation has a square flue through which the air from the bacteriological laboratories gets out. There is a special furnace attached. Its flames reach a temperature of 1,500 degrees F so as to ensure that all the bacteria are destroyed when the contaminated air is discharged into the atmosphere.

The full extent of the danger lurking here becomes clear at the moment one enters the big brick building of the central laboratory. Even before the check point, in the wall of the lobby near the black beard set up to commemorate the official opening of the station in 1955 (the station had existed secretly for 14 years!) there is in easy sight a glass case with ampules of atropine sulphate. They are there for immediate injections should any "nerve" gas penetrate. The building's interior is still more unusual. In addition to the red fire alarm signals there are also yellow gas alarm boxes fixed to the walls of the corridors. Instructions posted alongside warn that should gas appear it is necessary to hold the breath, put on the respirator and exhale. The yellow alarm signals, and the omnipresent caution "toxic!" inscribed in white on many of the exhaust flues, and the gas masks hanging on the interior of the doors—all create a very ominous impression.

The work done at Suffield is connected with lethal agents of war. The assistant chief of Research, Joseph Perry, reveals that some of the substances studied there are extremely dangerous. The leakage of one hundredth of a miligram into the air may cause complications. Perry does not conceal the nature of the work done in the laboratory nor the identity of those who are interested in this type of research. He explains that with the help of various spraying devices bacteria can easily be spread in the air in the form of a semi-liquid jelly or dry powder. All this work to elaborate, create and apply these means of warfare is constantly engaging the attention of the defence ministries of the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada.

Northwest of where the Suffield Experimental Establishment ends, bogland begins. It stretches along the river valley which is indented with cliffs and gullies as far as Red Dear. And it is here that the travellers's attention is caught by a huge billboard of the local gas company: Look Up! That's the clearest sky in the world!

How bitterly ironical these words sound.

Operation "Ranch Hand"

CULTIVATING disease-spreading bacteria and making poison gas to exterminate people is a terrible business. That will undoubtedly be the opinion of the reader now that he knows the facts about the activities of the chemico-bacteriological hell's kitchen. But still, some readers might say with relief: "Thank God, these chemico-bacteriological centres mainly function in the United States, Britain and Canada."

But this makes it no easier for the countries situated far away from the shores of the unquiet Atlantic. In our age distance is easily overcome.

Imagine that one of the so-called under-developed countries crossed the path of the owners of these hell's kitchens in some way. One dark night some submarines violate sea borders and noiselessly surface near some point such as Singapore, Beirut, Saigon, Bangkok, or Algiers, Jakarta, Rangoon, Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, or Karachi. Then taking advantage of a favourable wind special units on these submarines fire aerosols containing bacteria or nerve gas. Then the submarines submerge and disappear. At the same time birds and rodents carrying epidemics are released from all sorts of scientific stations allegedly engaged in studying the migration of birds as well as from the various first aid centres organized "in charitable aims" on the territory of these countries by the attacking power. This starts off a nightmare that dwarfs anything a human mind might dream. Suddenly hundreds, thousands, then hundreds of thousands and finally millions of innocent people fall victim to diseases which run rampant in the tropical climate with their under-developed public health network. The population is decimated by the microbes of plague and typhoid, by the bacilli of cholera and anthrax, by the virus of encephalitis, small pox, yellow fever, tularemia, the toxin of botulism. Formerly scarce ailments—erysipelas, meningococcus meningitis, trypanosomiasis, and the absolutely incurable hemophilic influenza now begin to rage consum-

ing everything in their way. People in panic seek salvation in flight—but in vain. The countries adjacent to the affected areas close their borders tight. Everything is contaminated—the soil, water and air. The tragedy that befell Europe in the 13th century when the plague carried away every third person will pale alongside of what will happen after this surprise attack with the modern means of bacteriological warfare.

In this way a country might be converted into a cemetery “quietly” without any international conflict or any cause for UN interference. Of course, readers may find all this difficult to believe. Such a nightmare could never happen to us, they might say. If so, let them ponder over this fact: the U.S. Chemical Corps has long arrived at the conclusion that bacteriological warfare is exceedingly effective. Several years ago 200,000 mosquitoes were dropped in special containers near Florida air base in a locality virtually free of mosquitoes. Within a few days people living at the base and in the vicinity were bitten several times at least. If these mosquitoes had been contaminated in this test the consequence would have been horrifying.

‘Dirty Tactics’ in Vietnam

Take the case of South Viet-nam. Terrible news has come from there. The American military began a war of annihilation there using poison gas. A man-made poison mist fell on South Viet-nam destroying everything living.

Although Pentagon spokesmen outdo themselves in refuting these reports the facts remain.

We have before us the US Congressional Record. It has an article included in the record by Senator Mansfield, one of the leaders of the Democratic Party. It was written by Richard Dudman of the *St Louis Post-Dispatch*. The correspondent describes the “dirty tactics” used by the United States in fighting the Vietnamese guerillas. “Ranch hand” was the name given to this Pentagon operation against the South Vietnamese patriots, an operation intended to strangle the growing national liberation movement with the bony hand of hunger.

With regard to the spraying of poison the correspondent says that officials hope that this might prove useful in starving out the guerillas and making them leave their hideouts. The details are a secret but it is known that

re-equipped US Air Force planes fly over rural areas spraying poison to destroy the rice fields. It is claimed that the peasants must be taught a lesson, they must be convinced that the government's punishment will be severe.

The whole world is talking about it. Not only is plant life wiped out, but human life as well is in danger. As a result of this poison spraying the number of casualties among the civilian population of Ben Che province reached 5,000. In the villages on which poison was desolate earth remains in place of thriving plantations and crops. In Zong Chon province not a single buffalo or cow survived.

In addition to this numerous facts of mass poisoning in the concentration camps of South Vietnam lead us to the thought that this country is being used as a huge testing ground for American chemical warfare in comb conditions.

The world remembers that the A-bomb was first tried against Japan. Its victims were Asians who are considered beings of a lower order in the United States. Present developments in the United States show that the American military, who are infected with the venom of race superiority will experience no moral qualms about pressing the button of bacteriological and chemical warfare. Is this not clearly indicated by happenings in South Vietnam ?

Another important thing must be borne in mind. Only recently during military exercises in the Far East the Pentagon launched a simulated bacteriological attack on a Chinese Army hypothetically invading South Vietnam and Cambodia. The experts calculated that if such an attack had really been carried out enemy losses would have reached 75 per cent. However, the State Department tried to conceal the fact that in this case casualties among the civilian population would have amounted to 600,000.

This fact clearly indicated that a massive chemico-bacteriological attack is being prepared on the countries of Asia, and not only Asia.

The trend of research operations, news of which has leaked into the press as well as numerous other facts, including the statements of loquacious bacteriologists, makes it clear that the military establishments in the United States, Britain and Canada are making

preparations for an attacking war with the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons of offense.

General Rothschild wrote in *Harper's Magazine* that anyone thinking of bacteriological and chemical warfare should realize perfectly well that these are weapons of offense. The General makes it clear that the best way of using bacteriological weapons would be to spread microbes in the air so that they might be inhaled by the population of the enemy side.

For these men (we use the word with due apology to the rest of the human race) the problem of using microbes and poisons is no more than a problem of military expediency. "Conventional" weapons in a "conventional" war.

It is horrifying to think of what would happen if these recommendations were ever translated into action.

What is terrible about all the facts mentioned above is not only that the men who served their way to top military rank should talk of a nightmarish war of microbes and poison as though it were some baseball game. The worst thing is that they talk this way about weapons which are probably the blindest and most insidious ever invented. These are weapons equally deadly when it comes to destroying not only the population of the belligerent country, not only the population of neutral countries, but even the population of the aggressor country. It must be remembered that bacteriological weapons have no borders. Their use in one area might spread them all over the world, let alone neighbouring countries.

Bacteriological weapons are a particular danger for the peoples of Asia and Africa where the forefathers of the present owners of the hell's kitchen created such conditions by their colonial policy that there is dearth of qualified medical aid, that the low standard of living and overcrowding provide favourable conditions for raging epidemics. The chain reaction of bacteriological warfare in the countries of the East may cause such devastation that the chain reaction of destruction caused by nuclear bombs would pale into insignificance.

Britain's medical services succeeded in rapidly localizing the potential epidemic which killed Dr Bacon. Unfortunately, however, not always can the countries of

Asia and Africa cope with even natural outbreaks of epidemics. One can well imagine the aftermath of a massive bacteriological attack in these countries !

Who can guarantee that the scourge of death beginning in one country as the result of a bacteriological attack will not spread to other countries and cause no less horrible devastation ?

There can be no such guarantees !

Preparations for bacteriological warfare contain a latent danger for all including the population of the countries engaged in preparations for bacteriological warfare. To a certain extent the existence of the hell's kitchen is even more dangerous to the Americans and British than to other nations. Does not the case of Dr Bacon indicate that one fine day some blunder or carelessness might release these microscopic killers from their test tubes and the first to be victimized by these killers will be the men who nurtured them ?

VI

A Heinous Crime Against Humanity

ARE the people of the United States, Britain, Canada and the other Western countries aware of how grave a crime against humanity their military establishments are preparing ? Are the honest people of these countries doing all they can to avert this crime ?

In the middle of April, 1960, a small group of ordinary Americans left the town of Edgewood (some 70 miles from Washington) where one of the factories making bacteriological weapons is situated and marched to the capital. They decided to march along the roads of America to express their resolute protest against the criminal plans of the Pentagon.

This march attracted the attention of the American public and showed that there are Americans who are opposed to the actions of their military.

A number of public bodies, trade unions, religious institutions, youth and other organizations came out against the preparations being made in the United States for bacteriological and chemical warfare. Eleanor Roosevelt, widow of President Roosevelt, said when she learnt that the Pentagon was demanding an increase in appropriations for bacteriological and chemical weapons: "We are becoming less civilized day by day".

Norman Cousins, editor of the *Saturday Review*, noted that the United States was one of the few countries that had not ratified the Geneva Convention of 1925 banning the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons. He wrote that military spokesmen denounced this restraining factor (i.e. the Geneva Convention of 1925) in their testimony in Congressional committees. They urged Congress and public opinion to recognize the need to be free from any bans on the use of chemical, bacteriological or radiological weapons.

Cousins pointed out that the Pentagon was actively pressing to get the American government to repudiate Roosevelt's declaration of 1943 that the United States would never be the first to use chemical and bacteriological weapons. They frightened the Americans by claiming that the United State's potential enemy will not observe the Geneva Convention. They maintain that if the United State is bound by the Roosevelt Declaration it may be difficult for them to get the necessary support of Congress to step up their programmes for developing and producing chemical and bacteriological weapons. They considered it necessary to air the matter publicly as a major prerequisite for priming public opinion accordingly.

The American Government was strongly criticized by Congressman Kastenmeier for its preparations for bacteriological warfare. Writing in the magazine *Progressive* he warns that if chemical and bacteriological weapons are turned into conventional weapons as the military insist, this will greatly undermine US prestige in the international arena and would lead to catastrophe in case of war. The Congressman tabled a special resolution banning the use of chemical, bacteriological and radiological weapons other than as means of retaliation.

Another indication of the growing anxiety of American public opinion is the survey of chemical, biological and radiological means of warfare from the aspect of disarmament. This survey was prepared by Colonel Charles Donnelly on the instructions of the Senate's Disarmament Sub-Committee.

The introduction to the survey emphasizes that many military experts believe that the potentialities of chemical and bacteriological weapons are such that they constitute a great menace to the United States and the whole of mankind. The report contains a detailed historical survey of the development and use of bacteriological weapons in military operations. The author notes that at present the United States is not bound by any treaties and commitments not to be the first to use bacteriological or chemical weapons.

Colonel Donnelly stresses the need to have chemical, bacteriological and radiological weapons covered by any disarmament agreement.

There is a movement spreading among scientists to

refuse to work in the sphere of military bacteriology. *The National Guardian* reported that during the first week a petition to this effect was signed by 50 instructors and graduates of Columbia University and 15 members of the staff at the Rockefeller Institute.

Beginning with July, 1959, a group of persons could be seen near the gates of the hell's kitchen at Fort Detrick. Sometimes there were as many as thirty. Sometimes only two or three carried on their vigil of protest against the preparations for bacteriological and chemical warfare. This group which called itself Vigil at Fort Detrick included men and women from all over the country who undertook the lofty mission of awakening public opinion to the terrible menace looming over mankind. The leader of this movement, Stuart Mitchum of Philadelphia wrote to General Eisenhower, then President of the United States, that there was no justification for the plan to contaminate millions of defenceless men and women with bacteria and toxins basing these plans on claims that other nations intend to do the same. We must steer off this road before it is too late, Mr. Mitchum emphasized.

The Vigil at Fort Detrick Movement demands a stop to the production of biochemical weapons, the destruction of all stockpiles of these weapons and the conclusion of an international pact through the United Nations to outlaw these weapons.

General Rothschild complained that "it has been strictly forbidden to speak of any offensive use of chemical or biological weapons—no matter how many advantages their use may have." It is the view of this maniac in uniform that such a ban is absurd.

Of course, General Rothschild and his ilk have no intentions of renouncing their ugly creation.

On January 30, 1962, Britain's Defence Minister, Mr. Thorneycroft, spoke in the House of Commons to confirm the British government's intentions to continue work at Porton Down to make bacteriological weapons. He categorically refused to fulfil the demand of the Labour MP, Frank Ollawn, to stop the work under way in Porton to make bacteriological warheads for rockets. Mr. Thorneycroft tried in all ways to prove the "defensive" nature of the research at the Microbiological Centre and he rejected Mr. Ollawn's demand to permit an international

panel to visit Porton to corroborate the Defence Minister's claim.

One officer at Fort Detrick bluntly told a correspondent of *Newsweek* that he was an enthusiast of bacteriological warfare. According to the correspondent Fort Detrick is now doing work of a strictly offensive nature along two lines: (1) the use in war of the pathogens of the plague, anthrax and other bacteria. The U.S. Air Command boasted that the anthrax microbe developed in Fort Detrick causes death in 99 cases out of 100; (2) the merging of the most horrible traits of several microbes into one by altering heredity. The resulting agents are officially called "frankensteins".

However, it is not these agents that are the real monsters. The monsters are the men at whose will these formerly unknown, nightmarish bacilli which combine the virulence of the plague and the imperviousness to antibiotics of the staphylococcus aureus. These maniac monsters are pressing stubbornly to bring this calamity on us. One of them said: so far it is impossible to cross a mouse with an elephant but we have not yet exhausted all possibilities and it may be that we will succeed in doing so one fine day.

These man-haters must be stopped by all means.

Primarily the task is to make the governments of these countries publicly leash their "plague generals" and provide clear proof to mankind that the ovens of the hell's kitchen have been extinguished once and for all and that the venom it produces has been destroyed to the last drop.

Mankind has on its side not only the force of moral influence that can bend any government anywhere under its impact, but international law which clearly and unambiguously bans the use of poison gas and bacteriological agents as weapons of war.

Artical 23 in the supplement to the 4th Hague Convention which formulates the rules and customs of warfare bans the use of poisons. Nowadays, of course, this ban extends to biological poisons as well. This ban was established by the Geneva Protocol of June 17, 1925.

It stipulates that the use of asphyxiating, poison or other such gases as well as similar liquids, substances and

processes have rightly been denounced by public opinion in the civilized world....

It further notes that the signatories recognize this ban and agree to extend it to bacteriological means of warfare and hold themselves bound with regard to one another by the terms of this Declaration.

The Geneva protocol is not limited in time and is open to other states to accede. It has under it the signatures of representatives of 46 states.

The horrifying aftermath of the use of nuclear weapons is sufficiently well known. The gigantic fire-balls over Hiroshima and Nagasaki most dramatically illuminated the brink of the bottomless abyss at which mankind stands. That is why the struggle against nuclear death has become a truly grass-roots movement in our day. Millions of people in various parts of the world took their place under the banners of this noble struggle. They do not have to be told what nuclear war is and what a danger it is to civilization.

Bacteriological and chemical weapons are an entirely different matter. Nowhere and never before has the danger of a war with these weapons been made known so bluntly and authoritatively. This is a danger that haunts us and is, to a certain extent, even more terrible than the danger of nuclear warfare.

The public at large which has been occupied during the past decade with thoughts about the nuclear menace knows very little about the dangers of bacteriological and chemical warfare and attaches still less significance to it. Bacteriological and chemical means of warfare were prohibited by international conventions. Both are under a shroud of secrecy. None of them has been tested officially, we emphasize officially, in their present form. Canada, Britain and the United States have been cooperating closely on the basis of a tri-partite agreement. They are making a thorough study of the means of bacteriological and chemical warfare.

This is the grim truth. That is why bacteriological warfare must be combated no less energetically than atomic warfare.

Some think that the blind and terrible force of these weapons is in itself guarantee against their use, and that fear of retaliation will stop anyone who planned to unleash microbes and poisons first. These people are labouring under a misconception. There will always be a madman among the military strategists ready to be the first to press the button for the illusory advantages of the first blow. So long as there is fire in the ovens of the hell's kitchen there can be no guarantee against the monstrous menace that mankind is facing.

The preparations for bacteriological and chemical warfare must stop. International Law not only brands such warfare but also preparations for it as a heinous crime against humanity.

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